

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cleaner comprising:

(a) a cleaning-medium-containing section for containing a cleaning medium;

(b) a medium-transmitting section for transmitting the cleaning medium;

(c) a heating section for receiving and heating the cleaning medium transmitted from the medium-transmitting section so as to generate vapor;

(d) a vapor-jetting section for jetting the vapor toward a portion to be cleaned; and

(e) a suction section disposed in the vicinity of the vapor-jetting section in such a manner as to face the portion to be cleaned, and adapted to draw in dirt loosened on the portion to be cleaned.

2. A cleaner according to claim 1, wherein

(a) the cleaner further comprises a vacuum generator for generating a vacuum; and

(b) the cleaner draws in the dirt via the suction section by operating the vacuum generator.

3. A cleaner according to claim 1, wherein:

(a) the suction section is connected to a dust box removably attached to a body of the cleaner, and draws in the dirt through drawing in air; and the drawn-in air is led into a space within the dust

box.

4. A cleaner according to claim 3, wherein:

- (a) the air led into the space within the dust box is separated into dirt-laden water and dirt-free air by a filtering device; and
- (b) the dirt-laden water is collected in the dust box.

5. A cleaner according to claim 1, further comprising a discharge port located in the vicinity of the vapor-jetting section and adapted to discharge a drying medium toward the portion to be cleaned.

6. A cleaner according to claim 5, wherein the drying medium is formed through heating the dirt-free air separated by the filtering device.

7. A cleaner according to claim 6, wherein:

- (a) the discharge port is connected to an air-heating path; and
- (b) the dirt-free air is heated in the air-heating path.

8. A cleaner according to claim 7, wherein the heating section and a vapor transmission pipe for sending the vapor to the vapor-jetting section are disposed in the air-heating path.

9. A cleaner according to claim 1, wherein a brush is disposed adjacent to the vapor-jetting section.

10. A cleaner according to claim 1, wherein a handle is removably attached to a body of the cleaner in order to allow the cleaner to be used in a manner similar to mopping.